

March 13, 2022

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Theresa M Kingsbury, daughter of one of the first volunteer Supernumerary Police Officers in the State of Connecticut, William Thomas Reisen. My father would be beside himself attempting to understand why our government is attempting to disarm loyal citizens of this State and Country. From a very young age I was taught to respect firearms. That they have their place and time in life. For the protection of family and loved ones, for hunting for food, to which I still participate along with fishing. As a law-abiding citizen, someone who works as a contractor for the Judicial Branch of the State of CT and a woman in this modern age of instant information I find the movement to disarm me and my fellow citizens outrageous and unlawful. I only need to turn on my TV or Radio and listen to what is happening around the world and country to know that I may be called upon to do something to help my loved ones, neighbors and friends. A blatant example of that is what is happening in the Ukraine right now. Citizens are defending their country and if it can happen there it can happen here.

Yes, I do enjoy shooting sports, hunting and fishing among other outdoor activities. While I speak of that point I have suffered from a number of ailments Cancer and Rheumatoid arthritis (RA), RA since I was seventeen years old. I am much older now and close to retirement. My grip is not as strong as it use to be. The changes you have proposed that will make a semi-automatic rifle with a thumbhole stock illegal as an assault weapon confuses me, as that feature makes the gun so much safer for me to hold and shoot as I harvest deer for my family. Many of the features you are referring to in the Assault Weapon ban sections of the SB No. 16 proposals are safety features. Flash suppressors and Shrouds keep the light from the percussion of firing a semi-automatic from entering the shooters eye and effecting far vision. Suppressors reduce the noise emitted by the firearm at discharge making it safer for the shooter's ears and those around them at a shooting range like my husband and I belong to and shoot at. Now to speak of regarding the changes proposed to un-marked or un-numbered firearms. Not that long ago firearms were manufactured without special marks or serial numbers, modern firearms not even speaking of antiques. To speak of antiques, who determines what an antique is. Are you stating the dueling pistols handed down from ones old Uncle is now an illegal firearm because it doesn't have a serial number? The idea of registering firearms that have been handed down through the years and never used in a crime is absurd. I don't see how this will make the citizens of CT any safer knowing that old Uncle John's Blunderbuss that hangs over the fireplace mantle is now registered. One more section that has always bothered me since the original "ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME" passed and is now being proposed to changes is the section where law enforcement officers may request to see a permit/certificate. To me that appears to go directly against the Fourth Amendment. Now proposing that cities and towns can write their own interpretation of that law. I just don't see the need for that and disagree with the ideation of the law in the first place. I believe in the rights given to us under the US Constitution where we are believed to be innocent until proven guilty. Wasn't it Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia where you had to show your papers to just leave your home, what's next papers for US Citizens who are permitted to move freely around this great country? I oppose Senate Bill 16 fully and completely.

While I do understand the difficulties of proposing laws to keep all of us safe in this great State of Connecticut, I do not understand the attention given to attack Law-Abiding Citizens who happen to own firearms. You, as our elected law makers should be finding ways to stop crime.

Regarding the House Bill 5416 "AN ACT CONCERNING BULK PURCHASES OF PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS." I once again find myself at a loss as to why this needs to be addressed. Have there been citizens purchasing great numbers of pistols and revolvers over the last few years? What determines how many firearms is too much for an individual to own. There are many types and brands and calibers that may be used for all kinds of legal activities. If a legal pistol permitted individual in CT wins the lottery and wants to buy ten pistols, doesn't the tax collected benefit the State of CT? What outcome is expected from this? Limiting legal purchasing of a commodity sounds like a control that should not be part of our form of government. Would it make sense to limit the number of cows the dairy farmer can purchase or the number of pots and pans a restaurant can purchase? If my neighbor can legally purchase a firearm and has the money to purchase more than one so be it, it is his or her right to do so.

I have taken the time to write this to the Judiciary Committee in hopes that you will take a step back, refocus your attention to the issues and work together to find ways to stop CRIME at all levels. I do not feel it is in my best interest as a LAW-ABIDING, VOTING citizen of CT to have all these restrictions placed on my back.

Respectfully,

*Theresa M Kingsbury*

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